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REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed August 16, 2005. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8-11, 13, and 14, canceled claims 4 and 6-7, added claims 15-22, and do believe each of such claims to be in condition for allowance.


Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the finding of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 7 and 8. With such being the case, Applicants have, per the Examiner's suggestion, revised claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, as well as of any pending claim depending either directly or indirectly therefrom (i.e., claims 2, 3, 5, and 8-14).

In addition, regarding newly added claims 15-22, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, like claim 1, includes the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 7. Accordingly, as claims 16-22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15, Applicants respectfully request that claims 15-22 also be passed to allowance.

It is noted that the amendments made hereby to the claims are fully supported by the original disclosure, and therefore introduce no new matter.

In view of the foregoing, an early formal notice of allowance of the present pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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